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SUBJECT Reaction to Election of Pedro Sand as
 Secretary General of Ecuadoran Communist Pa

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PPLEMENT TO
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The election of Pedro Saad as Secretary General of the Ecuadoran Communist Party has evoked various reactions among Party members:

1. One group favors Saad since they do not believe that Primitivo Barréto is forceful enough to direct Communist activities in Ecuador, especially in view of the progressively more belligerent attitude to be used in the general campaign of the Party.
2. Guayaquil Party leaders feel Saad has been promoted to a position of more prestige but less authority. As Secretary General of the Party, Saad's principal operations will be directed from Quito. However, Guayaquil is considered the headquarters of Communist activities in Ecuador. The recent visit of Roberto Morena, suspected Cominform agent, to Guayaquil, seemed to confirm the latter statement. It is believed that Cominform leaders favor this location for their activities.
3. Enrique Gil Gilbert, Secretary General of the coastal region, and Saad are known to have had some difference of opinion in the last few months. Saad's presence in Quito will allow Gil Gilbert to exert more influence in the coastal region. Friends of Gil Gilbert believe Saad is fully aware of this danger and is apprehensive lest his position may be weakened by it.

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